primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under its schemes of Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

During 2006-07, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 20.19 crore for the following tourism projects in Orissa:—

Destinations

1. Village Barpali, Distt. Baragarh
2. Village Hirapur, Distt. Khurda
3. Village Padmanavpur, Distt. Ganjam
4. Village Deulajhari, Distt. Angul
5. Similipal, Distt. Mayurbhanj

Circuits

1. Chandipur-Talasari-Udaipur-Chandaneswar-Remuna-Panchalingeswar-Nilagiri
2. Koraput-Deomali-Jeypore-Upper Kolab-Gupteshwar

Events/Festivals

1. Puri Beach Festival
2. Konark Festival
3. Ekamra Utsav
4. Shree Kshetra Vasant Utsav

Development of LoC tourism in J&K

2399. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of J&K propose to develop LoC tourism in the State and has asked for the Centre's approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this will help to improve the economy of the border areas, if successful?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Potential of tourist traffic

2400. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the potential of tourist traffic in the years ahead;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government are making any effort to add and improve the infrastructure in the country to cope with the increase in the tourist traffic?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Assuming that the annual growth of 13% in foreign tourist arrivals observed in 2006 over 2005 continues, the estimated foreign tourist arrivals to India in 2007, 2008 and 2009 would be 5.01 million, 5.66 million and 6.40 million respectively.

(c) The efforts made by the Government to add and improve the infrastructure in the country to cope with the increase in the tourist traffic include:—

- Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels;
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;